UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FIFTIETH SESSION

Official Records

GENERAL COMMITTEE
1st meeting
held on
Wednesday, 20 September 1995
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. FREITAS do AMARAL
(President of the General Assembly)

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ORGANIZATION OF THE FIFTIETH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS: MEMORANDUM BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

ORGANIZATION OF THE FIFTIETH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS: MEMORANDUM BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/BUR/50/1 and Add.1)

Section I: Introduction

1. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the provisions reproduced in annexes V, VI, VII and VIII of its rules of procedure. It also took note of paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Section II. Organization of the session

Paragraph 5 (General Committee)

2. The Committee took note of paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraphs 6 to 9 (Rationalization of work)

3. The Committee took note of paragraphs 6, 7 and 9, and decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraphs 10 to 12 (Observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations)

4. The Committee took note of paragraph 10 and decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 11 of the Secretary-General's memorandum. It further decided to recommend to the General Assembly that, because of its solemn nature and the serious time and technical constraints, during the Special Commemorative Meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply would be made only in written form to be circulated as documents.

Paragraph 13 (Closing date of the session)

5. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the fiftieth session should recess not later than Tuesday, 19 December 1995, and close on Monday, 16 September 1996, and also that the Main Committees should start their work as soon as possible and make every effort to complete their work by 1 December 1995.

Paragraphs 14 to 16 (Schedule of meetings)

6. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that morning meetings should start at 10 a.m. for all plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees. The Committee also decided to recommend to the Assembly that, as a cost-saving measure, every effort should be made to ensure that plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees, including informal consultations, adjourned by 6 p.m., and that, with the exception of the Special Commemorative

Meeting, no meeting should be held on weekends. It also decided to recommend that the cost-saving measure should also apply, for the remainder of 1995, to meetings on the calendar of conferences and meetings.

7. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the decision just taken would not apply to plenary meetings during the general debate or to the Special Commemorative Meeting.

8. The Committee also decided to recommend that, in order to avoid the late start of meetings, the General Assembly should waive the quorum requirements for plenary meetings and meetings of the Main Committees.

9. The CHAIRMAN strongly endorsed the suggestions made at previous sessions that each delegation should designate someone to be present at the scheduled meeting time. Some progress had been reported in that respect, but there was still considerable room for improvement.

Paragraphs 17 to 19 (General debate and closure of the list of speakers)

10. The Committee endorsed the suggestions contained in paragraphs 17 and 18 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

11. The CHAIRMAN urged representatives, in view of the large number of speakers already inscribed on the list of speakers for the general debate in the General Assembly, to take the floor in the order in which they were listed. Those unable to speak at the scheduled time would be put at the end of the list for the day.

12. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to decisions taken by the Assembly at previous sessions, prohibiting the practice of expressing congratulations inside the Assembly Hall itself. In that connection, the Committee also decided to recommend to the Assembly that speakers in the general debate should be asked to exit the Assembly Hall through room GA-200, located behind the podium, before returning to their seats.

Paragraphs 20 to 22 (Explanations of vote, right of reply, points of order and length of statements)

13. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of its decision 34/401 and to rules 72 and 114 of the rules of procedure and paragraph 22 of annex VI thereto for appropriate action in plenary meeting and by the Main Committees. It further decided to recommend to the Assembly that points of order should be limited to 5 minutes.

Paragraph 23 (Records of meetings)

14. The Committee decided to take note of paragraph 23 of the Secretary-General's memorandum and, in that connection, decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the practice of not reproducing in extenso statements made in a Main Committee should be maintained for the fiftieth session.

Paragraph 24 (Seating arrangements)

15. The Committee took note of paragraph 24 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraph 25 (Concluding statements)

16. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the need for full implementation of paragraph 17 of General Assembly decision 34/401.

Paragraphs 26 to 29 (Resolutions)

17. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 32 of its decision 34/401, to recommendation 3 (f) of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, to paragraph 5 of its resolution 48/264 and to paragraphs 1 and 10 of the annex to its resolution 45/45.

Paragraphs 30 to 32 (Documentation)

18. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to paragraph 28 of its decision 34/401 and to paragraph 6 of its resolution 48/264. The Committee also decided to take not of the recommendations contained in paragraph 32 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraphs 33 to 36 (Questions related to the programme budget)

19. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the provisions reproduced in paragraphs 33 and 34 and the observations contained in paragraphs 35 and 36 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraphs 37 and 38 (Observances and commemorative meetings)

20. The Committee endorsed the suggestions contained in paragraphs 37 and 38 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraphs 39 and 40 (Special conferences)

21. The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the recommendations referred to in paragraphs 39 and 40 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Paragraph 41 (Meetings of subsidiary organs)

22. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to a letter dated 30 August 1995 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences to the President of the General Assembly (A/50/404) informing him that the Committee had recommended, on the strict understanding that meetings would have to be accommodated within available facilities and services, that a number of subsidiary organs should be authorized to meet during the fiftieth session. He further drew attention to resolution 49/252 of 14 September 1995, in which the Assembly established the

Open-ended High-level Working Group on the Strengthening of the United Nations System, and requested it to begin its substantive work during the fiftieth session of the Assembly. That resolution had been adopted on the understanding that it would require a specific exception to be made to paragraph 7 of resolution 40/243.

23. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should authorize the subsidiary organs of the Assembly referred to in paragraph 41 of the Secretary-General's memorandum to meet during the fiftieth session.

Section III. Observations and proposals on the organization of future sessions of the General Assembly

Paragraphs 42 to 44

24. The Committee took note of paragraphs 42 and 43 and endorsed the suggestion contained in paragraph 44 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

Section IV. Adoption of the agenda

25. The CHAIRMAN said that, in accordance with rule 40 of the rules of procedure, the Committee would not consider the substance of any item except in so far as it bore on the question of whether or not to recommend the inclusion of that item in the agenda.

26. He drew attention to the suggestions in paragraph 46 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, and in particular the suggestion that in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5 (a) and (c) of annex I to General Assembly resolution 48/264, the agenda should be reviewed periodically, in order to ascertain whether it was possible to delete any item on which no resolution or decision had been adopted for a period of time.

27. The Committee decided to take note of paragraph 46 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

28. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to paragraph 47 of the memorandum concerning item 20 (c) of the draft agenda, in which the Secretary-General pointed out that, in paragraph 10 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/47 B, the Council had recommended that the General Assembly should consider the question of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction as a separate sub-item under item 98 entitled "Environment and Sustainable Development".

29. The Committee endorsed the suggestion in paragraph 47 of the Secretary-General's memorandum.

30. The CHAIRMAN, referring to item 157 of the draft agenda, drew attention to paragraph 48 of the memorandum, in which the Secretary-General drew the Committee's attention to item 167, entitled "Participation of volunteers, 'White Helmets', in activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development", and which the Economic and Social Council, in paragraph 6 of its resolution 1995/44, had recommended for inclusion as a separate item in the agenda of the fiftieth

session. The inclusion of that item as a separate sub-item of item 20 had been requested by Argentina in document A/50/144.

31. The representative of Argentina had asked to address the Committee on that matter under rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

32. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Avalle (Argentina) took a place at the Committee table.

33. Mr. AVALLE (Argentina) said that the request for the inclusion of item 157 had been made in response to the need to follow up on the request contained in General Assembly resolution 49/139 B for a report on its implementation at the fiftieth session. Nevertheless, taking into account the strong support for the initiative, his delegation could accept the consolidation of items 157 and 167 of the draft agenda.

34. Mr. Avalle (Argentina) withdrew.

35. The Committee decided that, since items 157 and 167 dealt with the same subject, only item 157 should be included in the draft agenda.

Inclusion of items

Items 1 to 6

36. The CHAIRMAN said that items 1 to 6 had already been dealt with; he would therefore take it that there were no comments on their inclusion in the agenda.

Items 7 to 19

37. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 7 to 19 in the agenda.

Item 20

38. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 20 in the agenda, with the exception of sub-item (c) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

Items 21 to 34

39. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 21 to 34 in the agenda.

Item 35

40. Mr. LEGAL (France) regretted the inclusion of the question of the Comorian island of Mayotte in the provisional agenda. Discussion of the item by the General Assembly would violate the principle of national sovereignty enshrined in the Charter. Moreover, the question was under discussion by the authorities of France and the Comoros within the framework of the good relations that existed between the two countries.

41. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 35 in the agenda.

Items 36 to 92

42. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 36 to 92 in the agenda.

Item 93

43. Mr. LAMAMRA (Algeria), supported by Mr. LEHMANN (Denmark), said that, having consulted the representatives of France and Madagascar, his delegation proposed that consideration of item 93 should be deferred until the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, without prejudice to the position of those two countries on that question.

44. The Committee decided to recommend that consideration of the item should be deferred to the fifty-first session of the General Assembly and included in the provisional agenda of that session.

Item 94

45. Mr. PIBULSONGGRAM (Thailand) drew attention to the Secretary-General's progress report on the question of East Timor (A/50/436), in which he reported that two new rounds of talks had been held between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and Portugal since his previous progress report (A/49/391) and expressed the view that the confidence-building measures agreed upon by the two parties had created a better atmosphere for achieving progress in the ongoing dialogue. The following round of talks, scheduled to be held in London in January 1996, would deal with substantive issues and gave hope that a just, global and internationally acceptable solution to the problem would be found. His delegation therefore proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the deferment of item 94 until its fifty-first session.

46. Mr. REYN (Belgium) endorsed the proposal made by the representative of Thailand. Considerable progress had been achieved in the current negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General and the two Governments should be given some more time to permit their negotiations to bear fruit.

47. The Committee decided to recommend that consideration of the item should be deferred to the fifty-first session of the General Assembly and included in the provisional agenda of that session.

Items 95 to 137

48. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 95 to 137 in the agenda.

Item 138

49. The Committee decided to recommend that, since the General Assembly had concluded its consideration of item 138 at the last meeting of its forty-ninth session, it should not be included in the agenda.

Items 139 to 152

60. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include items 139 to 152 in the agenda.

Item 153

51. The CHAIRMAN said that the inclusion of item 153 had been requested by a group of countries listed in documents A/50/141 and Corr.1 and 2, and Add.1 to 3. The representative of Egypt had asked to participate in the discussion of item 153 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

52. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Elaraby (Egypt) took a place at the Committee table.

53. Mr. ELARABY (Egypt) said that the sponsors of the draft resolution contained in document A/50/141/Corr.2 wished to recall the important role of national parliaments as institutions of the State in their respective countries. The activities of the Inter-Parliamentary Union complemented and supported the work of the United Nations, which should take the necessary steps to conclude an agreement on cooperation in general as well as in specific fields between the two organizations and to submit a report on the matter to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session.

54. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 153 in the agenda.

55. Mr. Elaraby (Egypt) withdrew.

Item 154

56. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 154 in the agenda.

Item 155

57. The CHAIRMAN said that the inclusion of item 155 had been requested by Malta in document A/50/142. The representative of Malta had asked to participate in the discussion of item 155 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

58. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Cassar (Malta) took a place at the Committee table.

59. Mr. CASSAR (Malta) recalled that, with the end of the Trusteeship Agreement on Palau, the Trusteeship Council had amended its rules of procedure by

resolution 2200 (LXI) of 25 May 1994 to provide that the Council would meet as and when required. A range of views existed on the future of the Trusteeship Council, which was one of the principal organs of the United Nations under the Charter. The fiftieth anniversary of the Organization was an appropriate time for the General Assembly in plenary meeting to begin a formal review of the Council's future role. His Government was therefore requesting that an item on review of the role of the Trusteeship Council should be included in the agenda of the fiftieth session.

60. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 155 in the agenda.

61. Mr. Cassar (Malta) withdrew.

Item 156

62. The CHAIRMAN said that the inclusion of item 156 had been requested by a group of countries listed in document A/50/143. The representative of Turkmenistan had asked to participate in the discussion of item 156 in accordance with rule 143 of the rules of procedure.

63. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mrs. Ataeva (Turkmenistan) took a place at the Committee table.

64. Mrs. ATAEVA (Turkmenistan) said that the Economic Cooperation Organization, which had been founded to promote economic and social progress in its member States, had been granted observer status in the General Assembly by Assembly resolution 48/2 of 13 October 1993. Desirous of strengthening the cooperation that already existed between entities of the United Nations system and the Economic Cooperation Organization in the areas of economic and social development, the member States of the Economic Cooperation Organization requested the inclusion of item 156 in the agenda of the fiftieth session and the adoption by the General Assembly of the draft resolution contained in document A/50/143.

65. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 156 in the agenda.

66. Mrs. Ataeva (Turkmenistan) withdrew.

Item 157

67. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 157 in the agenda.

Item 158

68. The CHAIRMAN said that the inclusion of item 158 had been requested by a group of countries listed in documents A/50/145 and Add.1. The representative of Swaziland had asked to participate in the discussion of item 158 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

69. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Dlamini (Swaziland) took a place at the Committee table.

70. Mr. DLAMINI (Swaziland) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) provided for representation only of the people on the Chinese mainland and deprived the 21 million people in the Republic of China on Taiwan of representation in the international community, in violation of the principle of universality which was the foundation of the United Nations. In order for the Organization to grow in strength, opinions and experiences needed to be pooled from as wide as base as possible so that the benefits of the Organization could be shared by all countries and peoples of the world.

71. Swaziland had enjoyed a long and happy relationship with the people of Taiwan, whose high standard of living was clear evidence that, if afforded the opportunity, they could make a positive contribution to the international community. In the interest of equity and justice, their collective voice deserved to be heard. Indeed, given the increasing need for United Nations resources, the Organization could ill afford to reject the call to investigate further whether Taiwan's assistance could be put to wider use through the agencies of the Organization.

72. In addition to the principle of universality and economic assistance, a number of other factors should also be considered. Precedents existed within the United Nations for the parallel representation of divided countries. The former East Germany and West Germany as well as North and South Korea had been admitted to the United Nations simultaneously. Parallel representation did not impede the eventual reunification of divided countries, as the example of Germany demonstrated, and the Organization should therefore encourage and support the parallel representation of divided countries in the United Nations and other international organizations.

73. Mr. QIN Huasun (People's Republic of China) expressed his delegation's strong indignation at the resubmission by a small number of countries of the request concerning Taiwan's so-called "representation" in the United Nations and its firm opposition to the inclusion of item 158 in the agenda. A decision to include the item would not only contravene the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) of 25 October 1971, but would also constitute a serious infringement of China's sovereignty and a gross interference in its internal affairs. The proposal was therefore absolutely unacceptable.

74. Taiwan had been an inalienable part of China since ancient times, and both the Cairo Declaration of 1943 and the Potsdam Proclamation of 1945 had mandated the return of Taiwan from Japan to China after the Second World War. Over 160 countries had established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China and, to date, they had all recognized that there was only one China and that Taiwan was an inalienable part of that country. Resolution 2758 (XXVI) stated unequivocally that the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China were the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations and that the People's Republic of China was one of the five permanent members of the Security Council. The resolution had restored all of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations and

all its agencies, thus settling once and for all the question of China's representation in the United Nations, politically, legally and procedurally in a just manner.

75. The Taiwan authorities had invented the fallacy that resolution 2758 (XXVI) was a product of the Cold War. In pursuit of a cold-war strategy of containment, some Western countries had enforced a blockade on the People's Republic of China after its founding in 1949 and had obstructed the restoration of its rights in the United Nations, as a result of which the seat of China in the United Nations had been usurped by the Taiwan authorities for 22 years. It was that usurpation which had been the product of the cold war. In 1971, the adoption of resolution 2758 (XXVI) had rejected the so-called "dual representation" advocated by some countries and had accurately reflected the political situation of the People's Republic of China. The membership of the United Nations had thus shown its resistance to the cold war and its wish to safeguard the principles of the United Nations Charter and to oppose interference by foreign forces in the internal affairs of China.

76. The United Nations was an intergovernmental, international organization composed of sovereign States. Under Article 4 of the Charter, only sovereign States were entitled to become members in the Organization. The so-called "principle of universality" referred only to sovereign States. Taiwan, which had never been a sovereign State but rather a province of China, had no qualifications for membership in the United Nations.

77. The Taiwan question was different in nature from that of Germany and Korea, which had been divided after the end of the Second World War in accordance with international agreements. It was absurd to cite the model of "parallel representation" in the United Nations of the former German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany, or the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea, as an argument for Taiwan's membership in the United Nations.

78. The Taiwan authorities often tried to create "two Chinas", "one China and one Taiwan", and "Taiwan's independence" in the pursuit of their desire for expanded international living space and a normal life in the international community. In fact, as a province of China, Taiwan enjoyed extensive non-governmental, economic, trade and cultural ties with foreign countries, a fact to which China took no exception. As a region of China, Taiwan had been permitted by the Chinese Government to join regional economic organizations such as the Asian Development Bank and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation under the name of "Chinese Taipei". However, it was out of the question for Taiwan to join the United Nations or any other intergovernmental organization or to participate in the activities of such organizations as a sovereign State.

79. The question of Taiwan was purely an internal affair of China, and no country had the right to interfere. Raising the question of Taiwan's so-called "representation" in the United Nations under whatever pretext or in whatever manner constituted an illegal act which seriously infringed China's sovereignty and wantonly interfered in its internal affairs, an act which was naturally rejected by the Chinese Government and people and by the many peace-loving Members of the United Nations, and which was doomed to failure. The Chinese

Government and people would not sit idly by in the face of the attempts of the Taiwan authorities to win over a small number of countries with "dollar diplomacy" with the aim of splitting China or blocking and undermining the great cause of China's reunification. Only after that reunification would the residents of Taiwan, together with other Chinese people of all ethnic groups, fully enjoy the dignity and honour attained in the world by their motherland.

80. The refusal of the General Committee of the General Assembly at the forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions to include the proposal on the so-called Taiwan's "representation", sponsored by a small number of countries, had reflected the desire of the membership at large to safeguard the United Nations Charter and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). His delegation believed that, at the fiftieth session, the General Committee would once again firmly oppose the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda.

81. Mr. VILCHEZ ASHER (Nicaragua) said that, as a sponsor of the proposal to include item 158 in the agenda, his delegation supported the establishment of an ad hoc committee to examine the exceptional situation of the Republic of China on Taiwan. It was gratifying that, with each passing year, an ever-larger number of delegations supported the inclusion of the item. As the United Nations prepared to meet the challenges of the period ahead, it was appropriate for the General Assembly to consider the injustice of a situation which had existed since the beginning of the cold war but which could now be examined with justice and realism with the aim of recognizing the fundamental human rights of the 21 million inhabitants of the Republic of China on Taiwan. Taiwan sought recognition of its right to international representation on equal terms as those enjoyed by other countries so that it could be a constructive voice within the United Nations, cooperate in programmes for the economic and social development of poor countries, and seek solutions to the current United Nations economic crisis, which had repercussions for Taiwan as well. Taiwan had all the characteristics of a sovereign State, but was deprived of a seat in the United Nations. It was a fundamental principle of the United Nations to seek peaceful, negotiated solutions to its problems. The establishment of an ad hoc committee to examine the situation of the Republic of China on Taiwan would make that possible.

82. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of the Solomon Islands had asked to participate in the discussion of item 158 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

83. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Horoi (Solomon Islands) took a place at the Committee table.

84. Mr. HOROI (Solomon Islands) said that the issue under discussion was critical for the United Nations at the current moment in its history. He reminded the Committee that, in the Chairman's inaugural address as President of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, he had stated that the United Nations was the only universal international organization, that non-members should seek to be admitted to the Organization, and that no Member State should be expelled. The issue was one that transcended politics, economics and trade. The Republic of China on Taiwan was democratic and independent, with its own system of government and laws. It exercised jurisdiction over its own territory

and was a major world investor with a large per capita income. Two thirds of the Members of the United Nations had trade relations with Taiwan, which had been generous in offering technical aid to developing countries.

85. The People's Republic of China advocated a "one China policy". However, recent military manoeuvres in the Taiwan Strait had exacerbated existing tensions and did not help to further that goal. The 21 million inhabitants of the Republic of China on Taiwan must be heard. For that reason, item 158 should be included in the agenda.

86. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of the Sudan had asked to participate in the discussion of item 158 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

87. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Yassin (Sudan) took a place at the Committee table.

88. Mr. YASSIN (Sudan) said that his delegation supported the position of China on principle and because it believed in the unification and solidarity of nations. Resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the question of the status of Taiwan once and for all in a just manner, and any attempt to include item 158 in the agenda was a violation of a decision of the General Assembly. The United Nations was an intergovernmental organization composed of sovereign States; Taiwan, as a part of China, had no standing as a sovereign State. To include the item in the agenda would therefore undermine the principles of the United Nations Charter and infringe the sovereignty of China. The matter was an internal one to be settled by the Chinese Government and people. The "principle of universality" and the "model of parallel representation of divided countries" were not applicable to Taiwan. The Committee had refused requests to include the issue of the status of Taiwan in the agenda of the forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions. There were no new grounds to justify a change in that position.

89. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Guinea-Bissau had asked to participate in the discussion of item 158 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

90. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Touré (Guinea-Bissau) took a place at the Committee table.

91. Mr. TOURÉ (Guinea-Bissau) said that the representative of Swaziland, speaking on behalf of the sponsors of the request for the inclusion of item 158, had spoken for all those who supported consideration of the exceptional situation of the Republic of China on Taiwan. Since 1971, when the People's Republic of China had taken Taiwan's seat in the United Nations, Taiwan had been excluded from the Organization. The Republic of China on Taiwan was sovereign and independent. It had been founded earlier than the People's Republic of China and had never ceased to exist, nor had either of the two ever been subject to the other. The Republic of China on Taiwan and its people were prevented from leading a normal life in the world community, a situation which was in violation of the Charter of the United Nations. The inclusion of item 158 in the agenda would be in conformity with the principles of the Charter and would contribute to world cooperation in economic development and environmental

protection. The Republic of China on Taiwan had been generous in its aid to developing countries such as his own. There was no attempt on the part of the Republic of China on Taiwan to claim United Nations representation in the name of China or to claim that country's Security Council seat. Taiwan merely sought representation in the United Nations for its 21 million inhabitants. The question was one of human rights, and a just solution was called for. His delegation therefore supported inclusion of the item in the agenda.

92. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of the Central African Republic had asked to participate in the discussion of item 158 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

93. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Koba (Central African Republic) took a place at the Committee table.

94. Mr. KOBA (Central African Republic) reminded the Committee that the Republic of China had been created in 1912, subsequently admitted to the United Nations as a Member, and later, for circumstantial reasons at the time, divested of its seat in the Organization in accordance with resolution 2758 (XXVI). A number of recent changes in the world scene had taken place thanks, in part, to the role of the United Nations, but the Republic of China on Taiwan and its inhabitants had been unable to contribute to such developments. He wondered why the United Nations principles of equity and justice were not applicable to the situation of Taiwan. The same principles which had prompted the countries of the world to form a family forbade that family from marginalizing one of its members, and Taiwan must be able to claim its right to membership in the United Nations. 1995 marked both the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and the United Nations Year for Tolerance. The time had come to put an end to systems based on the intimidation of peoples. The recent military manoeuvres in the East China Sea did not help to foster regional and international peace and security. While some leaders might want to perpetuate their own positions, the time for change had come. Patience and wisdom would ultimately prevail, as they had done in so many other cases. His delegation therefore supported the establishment of an ad hoc committee to analyse the exceptional situation of the Republic of China on Taiwan.

95. Mr. PETRESKI (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that, in accordance with resolution 2758 (XXVI), his Government supported the position of the People's Republic of China that item 158 should not be included in the agenda.

96. Mr. ERDENECHULUUN (Mongolia) said that his delegation could not support the inclusion of item 158 in the agenda. By its resolution 2758 (XXVI), the General Assembly had settled the issue of representation of the Chinese people and Government in the United Nations.

97. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Brazil had asked to participate in the discussion of item 158. While rule 43 of the rules of procedure was not applicable, he took it that the Committee wished to accede to the request.

98. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Patriota (Brazil) took a place at the Committee table.

99. Mr. PATRIOTA (Brazil) said the question of China's representation in the United Nations had been settled with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). His delegation hoped that the proposal to include item 158 in the agenda would be rejected, as it had been in the two previous General Assembly sessions.

100. Mr. CAMACHO OMISTE (Bolivia) said that his delegation agreed that the question of China's representation in the United Nations had been settled with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Bolivia also understood that the issue of Taiwan was China's internal affair, and had been recognized as such by a majority of Member States. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of item 158 in the agenda.

101. Mr. ABULHASAN (Kuwait) reiterated his delegation's unalterable opposition to the inclusion of any item on the exceptional situation of the so-called "Republic of China on Taiwan". Kuwait believed that the question of the membership of Taiwan in the United Nations had already been resolved in General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which stated that the representatives of the People's Republic of China were the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations. Kuwait believed that any attempt to include the item in the agenda was a clear contradiction of that resolution and constituted a violation of the sovereignty of the People's Republic of China and interference in its internal affairs. Kuwait believed that there was only one China and one Chinese Government, which was located in Beijing, and it therefore opposed the inclusion of item 158 in the agenda.

102. Mr. KITTIKHOUN (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that in 1971, in resolution 2758 (XXVI), the General Assembly had restored the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations, thereby resolving the question of China's representation in the United Nations once and for all. Inclusion in the agenda of the so-called "question of the representation of Taiwan" had been rejected by the General Committee at the forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions, proving the determination of the Member States as a whole to uphold that resolution. There was only one China, and that was the People's Republic of China; any attempt to deny that fact was a violation of that country's sovereignty, as well as an infringement of resolution 2758 (XXVI). For those reasons, his delegation opposed the inclusion of item 158 in the agenda.

103. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Burkina Faso had asked to participate in the discussion of item 158 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

104. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Sermé (Burkina Faso) took a place at the Committee table.

105. Mr. SERMÉ (Burkina Faso) said that his delegation supported the inclusion of item 158 in the agenda. When it operated as a legislative body, the General Assembly had been known to revise its own decisions, and for that reason his

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delegation deemed it appropriate to include the item, of which it was a co-sponsor.

106. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran had asked to participate in the discussion of item 158. While rule 43 of the rules of procedure was not applicable, he took it that the Committee wished to accede to the request.

107. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Moradi (Islamic Republic of Iran) took a place at the Committee table.

108. Mr. MORADI (Islamic Republic of Iran) expressed his delegation's view that the question of China's representation in the United Nations had already been resolved by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which stated that the representatives of the People's Republic of China were the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations. His delegation therefore joined others in supporting the Chinese position opposing the inclusion of item 158 in the agenda.

109. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of Kazakhstan had asked to participate in the discussion of item 158. While rule 43 of the rules of procedure was not applicable, he took it that the Committee wished to accede to the request.

110. At the invitation of the Chairman, Ms. Arystanbekova (Kazakhstan) took a place at the Committee table.

111. Ms. ARYSTANBEKOVA (Kazakstan) said that her delegation recognized the Government of the People's Republic of China as being the only legitimate Government of China; Taiwan was an inalienable part of the territory of China, and her delegation rejected any attempt to create "one China and one Taiwan". It therefore opposed the inclusion of item 158 in the agenda.

112. The CHAIRMAN said that the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had asked to participate in the discussion of item 158. While rule 43 of the rules of procedure was not applicable, he took it that the Committee wished to accede to the request.

113. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Muntasser (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) took a place at the Committee table.

114. Mr. MUNTASSER (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the question of China's representation in the United Nations had already been resolved in General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which clearly and unambiguously stated that the representatives of the People's Republic of China were the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations, and that China was one of the five permanent members of the Security Council. On that basis, his delegation objected to the request to include item 158, which was tantamount to interference in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of China and ran counter to the General Assembly resolution on the matter, as well as to the principles of the United Nations Charter.

115. Mr. OULD ELY (Mauritania) said that the proposal to discuss the representation of Taiwan in the United Nations clearly ran counter to the views of the General Assembly as expressed in its resolution 2758 (XXVI); as a province of the People's Republic of China, Taiwan was not entitled to become a member of the United Nations. The issue of Taiwan was an internal Chinese matter that could be settled only by the Chinese Government and people; to act otherwise would be a flagrant violation of the principles on which the Organization had been established, and would create a dangerous precedent for peace and stability throughout the world. His delegation therefore joined the other States opposed to including item 158 in the agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.